

planned FTE percentage reduction through FY2000 that is surpassed by KSC and MSFC.

During discussion in the space community, Lewis often makes the list of potential NASA centers that could be closed in the future. The reductions at Lewis over the past four years may have furthered the impression that the center is a candidate for closure. Based on the current strategic plan, however, the near-term closure of Lewis appears unlikely. Recent statements of NASA Administrator Dan Goldin support that supposition. In an April 24, 1997 hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space, Mr. Goldin was asked if the agency had any future plans for the closure of some of its centers. He responded that NASA's future requires all of its centers and that there were no plans for closing any centers. He did assert that his response was predicated on the assumption that NASA's out-year budget plans would be met.

That caveat is important to note. NASA's strategic plan assumes that the agency will have stable budgets over the next few years. If NASA were to undergo significant reductions in its budget, the possibility of center closures might become more likely. The future of Lewis would then be tied to what priority the nation gives to NASA's Aeronautics and Space Transportation Technology enterprise versus the other three NASA enterprises. If budget constraints precipitated the decision to reduce or eliminate NASA's aeronautics mission, the future of Lewis would be in doubt. However, such a scenario appears unlikely in the near-term.

IN HONOR OF DEPUTY SHERIFF
JIMMIE HENRY

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 1997

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Deputy Jimmie Henry of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. On August 4, 1997, the city of Avalon, CA, which is in my congressional district, will be holding a memorial ceremony honoring Deputy Henry who died in the line of duty. The California Peace Officer's Association will present a medal of valor to his wife, Sue, and their only son, David J. Henry.

In 1984, Deputy Jimmie Henry was assigned to police the unincorporated area of Santa Catalina Island when a U.S. Navy jet crashed in a remote part of the island. At the request of the Navy, Sheriff's Department personnel were immediately dispatched to the scene of the disaster to check for survivors and to secure the area until Navy investigators could respond and assume control of the investigation. Deputy Henry was assigned to check the wreckage for survivors at the bottom of a canyon, and sadly to say, there were none.

During Deputy Henry's investigation, he was exposed to toxic chemicals that were leaking from the aircraft. It was only when Navy personnel arrived the next day and approached the wreckage that there was any indication of the seriousness of his exposure to unknown substances.

Deputy Henry's state of health steadily declined following the accident, and on May 12, 1995, Deputy Henry died of his injuries heroically sustained in the line of duty.

I proudly join Mayor Pro Tem Tim Winslow, the city of Avalon, and Sheriff Sherman Block

in honoring the memory of this courageous fallen hero, and I offer my gratitude and support to his wife, Sue, and their son, David, on the occasion of this important memorial ceremony.

A TRIBUTE TO PAMELA SACKETT

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a great woman and a selfless advocate of children's welfare, Pamela Sackett, who has served as the executive director of the Task Force for Child Protection since 1985. Pamela Sackett will be recognized for her many accomplishments at a retirement dinner on Tuesday, August 12, 1997, in Poughkeepsie, NY, of my congressional district.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Sackett received her education in New York State first at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY, and later at Fordham University located in the Bronx, NY. Soon after her graduation from Fordham University where she received her masters of social work, Pamela began working as the coordinator of community services for the Task Force for Child Protection. Holding this post from 1981 to 1984, Pamela developed her skills as a social worker and a community leader. Indeed, Pamela recognized the truth in the old cliché that our children are our future. Throughout her career Ms. Sackett has worked with the one noble goal of helping others. Prior to her tenure as executive director, Pamela continually took on ever more duties. She was simply glad to do her part for our Nation's youth. Among her varied responsibilities during these years she gave of her time as a crisis counselor, a board member, and a supervising social worker. While many would be satisfied with this list of accolades Ms. Sackett continued to give of herself.

Mr. Speaker, her unflagging efforts for the welfare of children is what makes Pamela Sackett so special to those she has helped over the years. While the task force was under her supervision many programs were developed with the one aim of children's welfare. In 1987 the task force began the KIDS program which supervised visits for families involved in family court. Among her other achievements, too numerous to list here, the task force opened the first child advocacy center in New York State. That's why I have always admired people like Pamela Sackett who offer their services to those in need, especially to those that society tends to forget. This type of service does not involve much wealth or acclaim. But it often helps those forgotten children.

Actions like these are what make Pamela an asset to the Salt Point community of upstate New York, where she now resides. We would do well to emulate her brand of caring service for children. On that note, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all Members of the House rise and join me in this tribute to Pamela Sackett.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES H.
HARGETT

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. James H. Hargett, who is retiring after 42 years in the ministry, the last 10 years as Pastor of the Christian Fellowship Congregational United Church of Christ.

Dr. Hargett, as he is known by his parishioners, friends and colleagues alike, always makes it a point to blend African-American history with theology. In his sermons or during his numerous public speaking engagements, Dr. Hargett will always discuss the present conditions of African-Americans in the context of the history of almost 250 years of slavery. "A son of the South", Dr. Hargett was born in Greensboro, North Carolina 67 years ago. He grew up to march with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and participated in numerous civil rights demonstrations and causes. "It was at this time," noted Dr. Hargett, "that I got the chance to witness the system of separate but equal from a close up point of view."

He recognized that a system based on segregation and bigotry would weaken our society. From that moment on, Dr. Hargett dedicated his life to fighting prejudice and injustice wherever it exists.

Dr. Hargett married Louilyn Funderburke Hargett. Together, they have three adult children and five grandchildren. Since graduating from North Carolina A&T and the Yale Divinity School in the Mid-1950's, Dr. Hargett had ministries in Hawaii, North Carolina, Los Angeles, New York, and New Jersey before moving to San Diego a decade ago.

He was active in the effort against Proposition 209, the anti-affirmative action initiative that was approved by California voters in 1996. He still believes that through strong leadership and organization, equal opportunity will continue to be the cornerstone of this democracy.

Dr. Hargett has been a man of vision and dedication. He has been a minister and a teacher—a conscience for us all.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to Dr. James H. Hargett on this special occasion.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT SCHERZ

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about a good friend and fellow Republican who was recently taken from us and sent to the Lord. I speak of Albert David Scherz of Loveland, CO. David was born November 24, 1932, in Timpson, TX, and passed away on July 19, 1997. His son, David wrote a eulogy in commemoration of his father that best expresses the kind of person he was, and I would like to submit it for the RECORD.

My father and I used to joke about who video taping the service for our own funerals.

And when we meet again, I'll have to chastise him for his procrastination. However, I really don't believe Dad would have been very good at eulogizing himself, he even asked that there be no long eulogy. In his own words, "Tell 'em I was a man who loved God, His Word, His Son Jesus Christ, and his fellow man. Never wanted to hurt anyone in any way. Knew to be a better person than I was, but the body and soul man was weak. But the Spirit of Christ cannot sin and it was strong within me."

He was one of a few people I've known who was unafraid of death, and lived his knowing that the Father would provide. Dad taught me what it was to experience the presence of God, daily. He always seemed to be aware that Father was watching over him. I always thought that everyone had a father like my dad, but as I grow older I realize how very special he was. I also realize how difficult it will be to follow in his footsteps.

During the last seven years of Dad's life, he became a natural minister of God's love and salvation. He grew strong in the power or prayer and was both a worker and receiver of miracles. Dad watched diligently for the return of our Lord Jesus and never gave up hope that he "wouldn't have to go on the first load." The night of Dad's death, an officer asked the people present in the living room if Dad attended a local church. One of Dad's neighbors replied, "he was the church, he ministered to everyone here."

"Dad" will be remembered for his generosity, kindness, and the love he had for his Lord Jesus. His treasures were never "laid up" in the world's financial markets, but he was a major investor in people's lives. Dad's emphasis on "things eternal" will continue to reap dividends of love and compassion from both God and man.

Albert David Scherz of Loveland, Colorado, went to sleep in his favorite green recliner Saturday evening, July 19, and is now awaiting the return of Christ. He died on his terms; one eye on the sky and his glasses in his hand. We have inherited his legacy of hope and love.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to share the sentiments of David Scherz's son. David Scherz was a good man and contributed to this world in a spiritual manner that will be hard to replace. America is a better place because of men like David Scherz.

HAITI'S ELECTIONS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 1997

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, just three days before the scheduled Sunday, June 15, Haitian run-off election, officials announced that the second round vote would be called off once again. Haiti's electorate was prepared to vote for seven of the twenty-seven Senate seats and one Deputy seat. The outcome of these elections would play an important role in determining the country's future political and economic direction and could have been detrimental to the U.S.-backed austerity program on which President Rene Preval and former Prime Minister Rosny Smarth have staked their reputations. The following research memorandum, authored by Karen L. Bucknell, Research Associate for the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, addresses the economic and political problems that persist in Haiti and

demonstrates the need for leaders to take the country off the proverbial Capital Hill back burner and place it on the forefront of foreign policy makers' agendas:

PERSISTING POLITICAL PROBLEMS

Aristide's incredible popularity among his countrymen makes any election inevitably one-sided in favor of his new political vehicle, the Fami Lavalas movement. There were accusations by the opposition that the results of the April 6 elections had been manipulated by the alleged pro-Aristide Provisional Electoral Council (CEP). The elections were further tarnished by a turnout of only 5% of the eligible voters, a huge defeat for the island's democratization prospects.

The tension created by such insinuations of tampering delegitimized the approaching vote to the point that its cancellation was imminent. The White House and the international community have since warned that they would have difficulty acknowledging the results of any Haitian elections until Aristide's old mass base, the Lavalas Political Organization (OPL) which now backs President Preval, agrees not to boycott the election. Compounding political problems, on June 9 Rosny Smarth resigned from his post as prime minister. Now the president and parliamentary leaders in the upper and lower houses must agree on a candidate who can fill the vacant office. A new election date will not be set until the OPL agrees to enter the race and the government chooses its nominee.

Although Smarth abdicated all authority upon his resignation, he has agreed to remain at his post until a new prime minister is appointed. His presence at the June 18 meeting on social and economic issues, including Preval, departmental delegates and mayors of towns, was a positive sign of his commitment to play a constructive role. Some observers felt that by merely remaining as a holdover in his position, he is reducing the built-in tension created by the canceled vote.

PREVAL, STUCK BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD SPOT

Postponing the run-off was also a blow to Preval, who had little to gain and much to lose from this development, as well as from the resignation of Smarth. Preval's increasingly deep rivalry with his old mentor Aristide (concerning the modernization plans) was inevitable, given the latter's direct hold on the population. Preval lacks a personal following and, together with his willingness to adopt hugely unpopular neoliberal reforms at the behest of Washington and the lending agencies, could fatally jeopardize his ability to lead the country through the difficulties of modernization. By giving in to international business interests, Preval risks giving the appearance that things are beyond his control. The State Department issued a statement shortly after Smarth resigned which was meant to absolve Preval of some of the blame for the problems he has encountered while governing. It said, "We think President Preval ought to be given the opportunity and the political space to govern. It is very difficult to succeed someone as popular as Aristide."

There are groups in Haiti that have accused UN and U.S. personnel and organizations still in the country of fomenting the political rifts that have arisen. Jodel Chablain, a top leader for the Front for the Advancement and Progress for Haiti (FRAPH), a notorious organization once led by the ill-reputed Emmanuel Constant, explained to Radio Metropole, "Foreign management . . . is what is causing division in the country."

QUESTIONABLE PRACTICES IN CONTROVERSIAL APRIL 6 ELECTIONS

Haiti is experiencing a dramatic reversal of citizen involvement in its public life, in contrast to the overwhelming 1990 turnout at the polls when Aristide won two-thirds of the vote. A disenchanted electorate no longer believes that elections or candidates can meaningfully improve their lives. As has been noted, only 5 percent of eligible citizens cast their ballots on April 6. Former Senator Jean-Robert Martinez claimed that this low showing indicated that the people "blame their misery on the vote . . . and that's extremely dangerous for democracy."

With 70% unemployment, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, with upwards of 65% of its urban population and 80% of its rural population living in absolute poverty. If only for symbolic reasons, the vast majority of the country's population strongly opposes the Preval government's privatization plan, which is aggressively being pushed by Washington as a precondition for economic assistance. This has become the dividing issue between the president and Aristide which led the latter to launch his new anti-government faction, the Fami Lavalas Party. "It is impossible to support a program that does not correspond with the people's needs," said Deputy Joseph Jasmine, alluding to the widely held belief that the industries scheduled to be privatized are part of the nation's patrimony. If put on the block, it is feared that these properties—looted over the years by a string of dictators ending with military junta leader General Raul Cedras—will be pounced upon by the nation's tiny and self-absorbed economic elite which already dominates the country's finances and commerce.

Preval's austerity program involves the partial privatization of nine major state sectors, the lowering of import tariffs and the shrinking of the public sector work force. It was implemented on the condition that the major multilateral agencies and foreign donors would continue to provide international development funds for Haiti. According to the World Bank, since the U.S. ouster of the military junta in 1994, the island state has been allocated more than \$2 billion in loans from such sources as the IDB, USAID and the EU. An update issued by the Washington Office on Haiti explained that Smarth recently indicated that the international community finances nearly 100 percent of Haiti's development budget.

THE ABORTED JUNE 15 RUN-OFF ELECTIONS

The cancellation of the June 15 run-offs came as a complete surprise to most international monitoring groups. The general integrity of the April balloting was upheld even though there were some infractions; however, these were neither systemic nor sufficient to invalidate the vote. There were even some guardedly optimistic predictions that the voter turnout on June 15 would increase significantly from the earlier shockingly low showing, if due to nothing else than Smarth's resignation and the belief that the government would now be more responsive to the people's sentiments. Given Aristide's overwhelming backing by the populace, the opposition has been using the threat of a boycott since 1995 as one of the few arrows in its quiver for extracting political concessions from the governing process. Yet all the political players are well aware that a boycott could do great damage to Haiti's image abroad, particularly among international donors who fund the island's recovery.

Given his grip over the masses, if Aristide's Fami Lavalas Party gains control of the Senate, his prospects of winning the presidential election in 2000 are all but